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INFORMATION REPORT

197810

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

DATE DISTR. 17 May 1948

SUBJECT The Litostroj Combine Proj  
in Ljubljana

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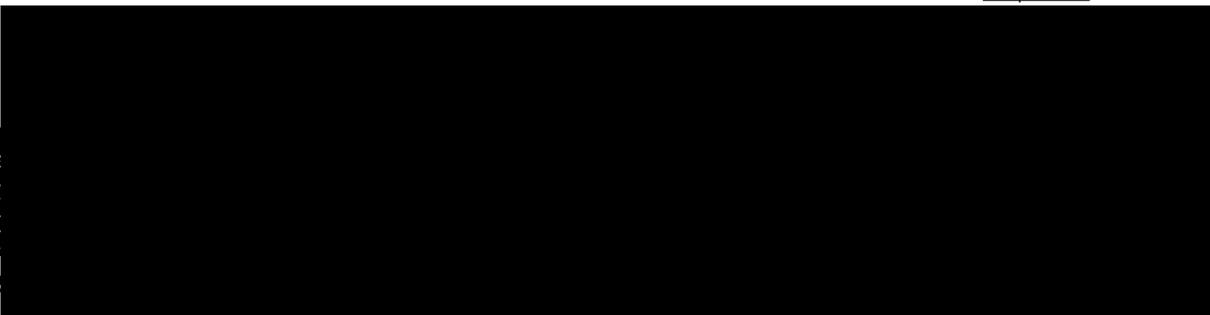
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1. The Litostroj project in Ljubljana was planned and is now being constructed under the direction of Engr. Edo Mihevc, a university professor. Mihevc stated in confidence in late 1947 that the project could not possibly be completed within the Five-Year Plan as originally intended - in fact, completion of the total combine will extend far into the second Five-Year Plan. Mihevc's assistant in construction is Engr. Roman Gregoric, and the following engineers of the Gradis construction firm belong to Mihevc's staff: Engr. Dane Smrekar, specialist in reinforced concrete construction; Engr. Zdenko Marincek, technical advisor for combine construction as a whole; Engr. Vlado Jorda, chief of construction; Engr. Anton Levstek, in charge of machinery installation; Anton Kovacic, in charge of electrical installation; Zarko Salokar, Jose Kacunc, and Nada Suskovic, construction specialists. Engr. Oton Berce, former assistant chief of construction was called up for military training in late December 1947 and has not returned.

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2. Engaged in the construction of the Litostroj combine are 2,800 workers, 250 voluntary "shock workers" headed by Anton Simcic, and about 1,000 German PW's. All workmen work in two shifts, thus ensuring that construction continues sixteen hours a day. Workers of the Gradis construction firm, represented by Ludvik Kuret, chairman of the Gradis Workers Union, take all their meals on the factory grounds at state expense. The Litostroj foundry started its first electric furnaces (Kupolka) on 1 September 1947, and the second furnace in January 1948.

3. On 18 February 1948 the Litostroj combine, under orders from the Yugoslav F.L.R.J. parliament, was declared an enterprise of particular interest to the state and, for this reason, it is subject to the general direction of the Metal Industry Section, headed by Engr. Vencelj Perko, of the Central Ministry of Heavy Industry in Belgrade, directed by Franc Leskosek.

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Comment: Arrest of Leskosek on 31 March 1948 has been reported. The plant now under construction is situated on the northern outskirts of Ljubljana along both sides of the railroad line leading from Ljubljana to Jesenice. The workers' barracks and dwellings, some of which are completed, will lie west of the railroad line. The plant grounds cover about one square kilometer and reach Vodovodava Street and the pumping station for the city water supply in Klece to the north. Until 1942, the southeast part of the plant yards and its building belonged to the Sekoteks textile mill; this section is now being used as temporary administration quarters.

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 15 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

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-2-

197810

4. In coordination with the Tito Five-Year Plan for electrification of Yugoslavia, the Litostrój combine is scheduled to produce hydro-electric turbines weighing 150 tons each, amounting to 2,500 tons of hydro-machinery per year. The combine is also scheduled to produce construction machines, lathes and boring machinery. A special department of the combine will produce precision machinery, typewriters, cash registers, adding machines, motor vehicle cylinders and cylinder rings, and motor vehicle differentials. An armament department will also produce machine guns, automatic pistols and rifles, ball bearings, and unspecified tin products.
5. Each major building in the combine will have bathrooms, showers and toilets. Windows in halls and factory buildings will face the north. Smoke will be conducted through water screens and filters in order to eliminate dangerous gases. An underground passage through the factory site, now under construction, will be two meters high and one and one-half meters wide; the passage will carry electric cables, pipes for water supply, steam, compressed air, gas, oxygen, and acetylene gas. It is expected that the combine's electric installations will use 16 kilometers of high voltage cables, and 20 kilometers of low voltage cables. The factory will be equipped with a modern internal communications system with more than a thousand telephones, 150 loudspeakers and an internal push-button call system over which, for example, the chief engineer will be able to speak to eighteen of his department engineers at the same time. An automatic fire alarm system will also be installed.
6. Highly mechanized methods of loading and despatching shipments have been planned; the factory will receive mobile cranes from the Maribor steel construction factory. An unspecified number of the cranes will be equipped with electric magnets for lifting steel cargo. The plant will also be equipped with two electric elevators, each with a loading capacity of seven and one-half tons. All plant sites will be connected with narrow and normal gauge railroad tracks connected with the Ljubljana-Jesenice railroad transportation line. The plant will have its own railroad station.
7. The following construction materials, amounting to 35 carloads, are now shipped daily to the plant sites:
  - a. Iron and steel parts from Jesenice
  - b. Cement from Trbovlje
  - c. Sand from Podpec
  - d. Bricks from Ljubljana and Vic (near Ljubljana).

Up to the present, machinery installed in the plant came from Jesenice, Maribor and Czechoslovakia. Certain heavy machinery expected from Switzerland has not arrived because of difficulties over manner of payment.

8. To date, the following buildings have been completed: (Numbers correspond to those on attached map.)

#### 1. - Foundry

This building, 178 x 48 x 16 meters, was built of prefabricated concrete plates fitted into a reinforced concrete skeleton. It has a tin roof and most of the walls are of glass. Two furnaces, one of cast iron and one of cast steel, have already been completed. Both furnaces are heated with coke; next to each a mobile crane of 25-ton capacity has been installed. Two electric furnaces installed in this building came from the KID steel combine, Jesenice. Between the two electric furnaces are two large sand moulding sites, each of which can be filled with 450 cars of sand. Moulding sand is received from Celje and Menges. Machinery for cleaning cast iron is installed near the electric furnaces. The foundry was officially opened on 1 September 1947 by Marshal Tito and other members of the Yugoslav government.

#### 2. - Carpenters workshop

This building, 175 x 20 x 12 meters, was constructed in the same manner as the foundry. Part of the building consists of a large hall and part consists of a three-story workshop with a concrete roof. The hall will house a pattern making section, a lumber-drying section, a storehouse for heavy and large patterns; the three-story workshop will store lighter and smaller patterns. Until complete installation of necessary machinery, the workshops will be used to work up specific iron and steel parts.

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-3-

197810

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3. - Managing director's villa

This villa, 52 x 37 x 10 meters, built of brick with a tile roof lies west of the railroad line facing Gustmanova Street.

4. - Workers' billets

To date, three buildings have been completed, each 66 x 18 x 10 meters in size and containing 18 three-room apartments. Eighty such buildings in the same style are planned. Construction is of brick with reinforced concrete, with roofs of reinforced concrete.

9. In December 1947, the following buildings were roofed and are due to be completed within 1948. (Numbers correspond to those on attached map.)

5. - Building for heavy machinery construction

This building, 126 x 24 x 14 meters, with reinforced concrete construction, has a curved reinforced concrete roof eight centimeters thick. The roof, a new invention of Prof. Mirko Kuhelj, is considered revolutionary in Yugoslav construction. It is carried in spans of 12 meters and affords excellent lighting. The building is equipped with four suspended rolling cranes, of 70-ton capacity.

6. - Building for medium machinery construction

Size and inventory are the same as in building 5.

7. - Building for light machinery construction

This building, 120 x 36 x 12 meters, is constructed according to the same plans as buildings 5 and 6. It is equipped, however, with six light suspended mobile cranes of unspecified capacity.

8. - Cleaning and smoothing workshop

This building 120 x 24 x 12 meters, is reinforced concrete structure with a curved roof of the type used in building 5.

9. - Assembly department

This building, 178 x 47 $\frac{1}{2}$  x 22  $\frac{3}{4}$  meters, is equipped with two suspended mobile cranes installed one over the other about 15 meters apart. Each crane has a loading capacity of 25 tons. The assembly department is intended for bridge sections weighing up to 40 tons with spans up to 12 meters.

10. The following projects are scheduled for completion by the end of 1951, the terminal date of the first Five-Year Plan.

10. - Employees' housing project, totaling 1,500 apartments.

11. - Workers Union Home, cinema, hotel and mess (four buildings).

12. - Industrial training school and workshops (four buildings).

13. - The aeronautical and hydraulic machine institute.

14. - Ballbearing plant

15. - Tool shop

16. - Steel foundry

17. - Smithy

18. - Storehouse

19. - Administrative section (administrative offices are temporarily installed in the building of the former Sekoteka textile mill).

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11. It is expected that the completed Litostroj combine will employ 10,000 workers, including 200 women. There are now about 1,700 workers producing materials which are used in the construction of the Litostroj project. Minor unspecified deliveries are also being made to the KID steel combine, Jesenice; the iron factory in Zenica; and the aircraft component and motor vehicle factory at Tesno, near Maribor.
12. Litostroj personnel
- a. Franc Pecar, managing director, 32 years old, a former technical student who did not complete his schooling but was trained, nevertheless, politically and technically in the Soviet Union. Pecar is a member of the CPJ and is very unpopular with his subordinates.
  - b. Jose Senk, chairman of the combine's Workers Union. Senk is about 42 years old and was an official in the Slovene government administration before the war. A member of the Communist Party, he is also chief of the combine's construction section.
  - c. Josip Vider, head of administration. Vider is 47 years old and considered a secret anti-Communist.
  - d. Ivan Zidan, head of the moulding department, Zidan is 67 years old, a confirmed Communist, and considered a very capable man in his work.
13. Litostroj main office, branch shops and storehouse
- a. The main office is in Ljubljana, Gustmanova 30; telephone numbers are 23-33, 27-83 and 37-80.
  - b. The telephone number of the Kodeljevo (near Ljubljana) branch shop is 48-93. Before 1945 the shop was an independent foundry and machine shop belonging to Joze Dolenc and employing 100 workers.
  - c. The Maribor branch shop is at Linhartova Street 11, telephone 20-15. This was formerly a factory for agricultural machinery employing about 80 workers and belonging to Ernest Eylert.
  - d. The Skofja Loka branch shop is in Kapucinsko Predmestje, a suburb of Skofja Loka; telephone 28. Before 1945, it was a water turbine factory owned by Engr. Schnaiter and employing about 50 workers.
  - e. The St. Vid branch shop is in St. Vid, near Ljubljana. It was formerly a foundry for church bells employing about 120 workers.
  - f. The Litostroj storehouse is in Ljubljana at Metelkova 15; telephone 44-30.

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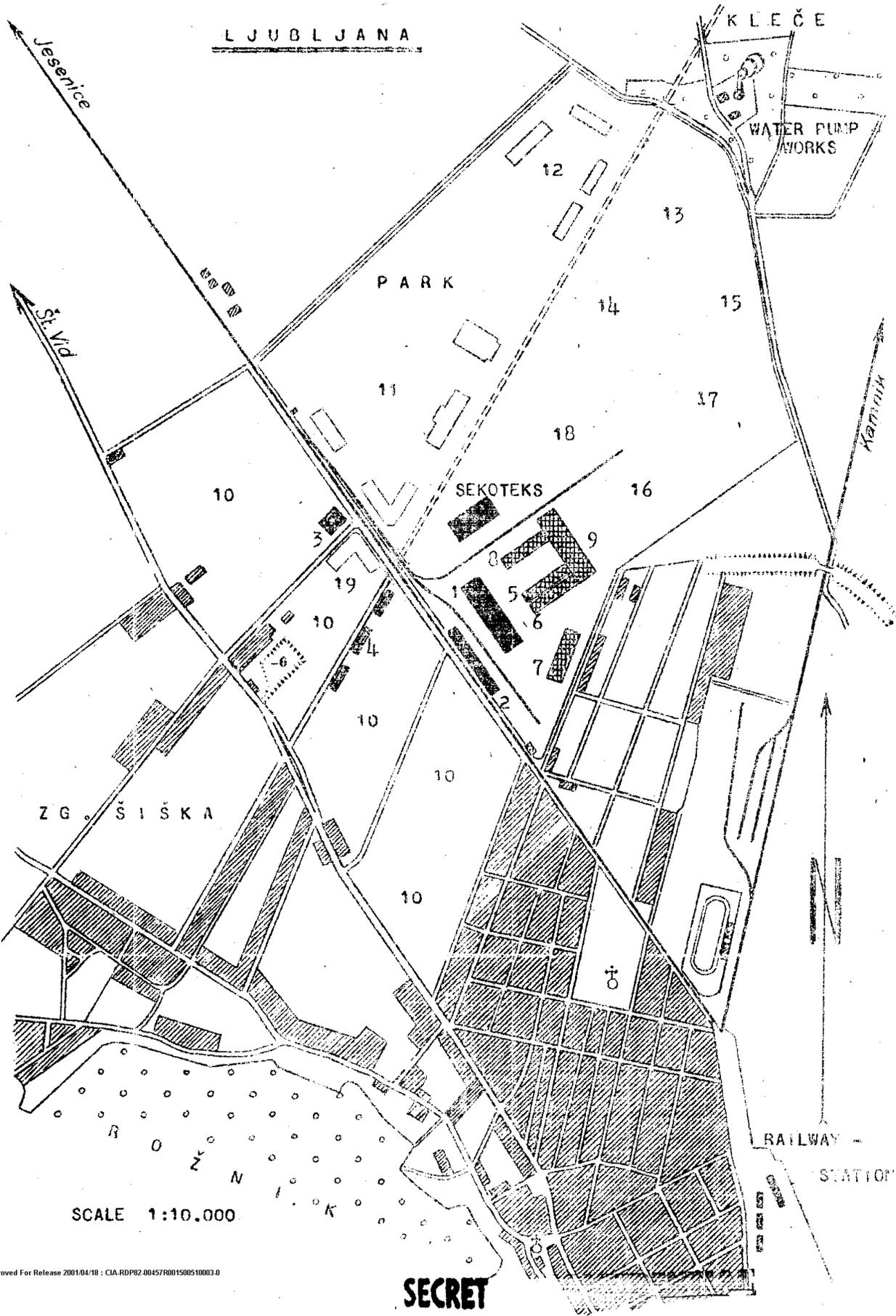
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-5-

"TITOV ZAVODI LITOSTROJ" - FOUNDRY AND MACHINE FACTORY



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